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CLAIMS

1. An apparatus for making espresso coffee comprising a support frame (2), a vertically mounted open-topped cylinder (3) mounted on the support frame, the frame and cylinder defining a space below the cylinder adapted to receive a block of compressed ground coffee and below which a cup to receive the coffee may be inserted, means for locating adjacent the base of the cylinder a quantity of ground coffee, a piston adapted to fit in the cylinder, and an actuation means linked to the piston enabling the piston to be moved up and down in the cylinder by the actuation means, wherein associated with the piston is a means for enabling water to pass the head (22) of the piston as the piston is raised within the cylinder by the actuation means.
2. An apparatus for making espresso coffee according to Claim 1 wherein the actuation means are a pair of levers (6, 7) pivoted to the frame and pivotally linked to the piston.
3. An apparatus for making espresso coffee according to Claim 2 wherein the levers (6, 7) are mounted 180° apart relative to the axis of the cylinder (3) and movable from an elevated position in which the piston is located at or near the top of the cylinder to a lowered position in which the piston abuts the base of the cylinder.
4. An apparatus for making espresso coffee according to Claim 2 or 3 wherein the linkage (16, 29, 30) between the piston and the levers (6, 7) is easily and quickly dismountable so that the piston may be removed entirely from the cylinder (3) to enable it to be cleaned.
5. An apparatus for making espresso coffee according to any of Claims 2 to 4 wherein the levers (6, 7) are geared together to promote even pivotal movement thereof.

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6. An apparatus for making espresso coffee according to any one of Claims 1 to 5 wherein the means for enabling water to pass the head (22) of the piston is an axially movable seal ring (40) located between the exterior periphery of the piston and the internal cylindrical wall of the cylinder (3), the seal ring being held captive between a pair of axially spaced flanges (41, 42) on the piston, the axial spacing between the flanges exceeding the axial dimension of the seal ring, and the arrangement being such that when the seal ring is adjacent the lower flange (41) on the piston, flow channels (47) formed therein are open and wherein those flow channels are closed when the seal ring is adjacent the upper flange (42).

7. An apparatus for making espresso coffee according to Claim 6 wherein the seal ring (40) is a resilient o-ring compressed between the exterior of the piston head (22) and the interior wall of the cylinder.

8. An apparatus for making espresso coffee according to any of Claims 1 to 7 wherein the cylinder (3) is mounted in the support frame (2) by way of a bayonet-type fitting (14).

9. An apparatus for making espresso coffee according to any of Claims 1 to 8 wherein the support frame (2) is provided with a base (1) containing raised formations (71) on its upper surface such that a cup placed on the base rests on the raised formations and out of contact with the upper surface of the base.

10. An apparatus for making espresso coffee according Claim 9 wherein the base (1) is provided with an external rim to contain spillage.

11. An apparatus for making espresso coffee according to any of Claims 1 to 10 wherein the means for locating a quantity of ground coffee at the base of the cylinder comprises a standard pot adapted to contain a quantity of coffee grounds, and, on the pot and at the base of the cylinder, interengagable means enabling the pot to be held against the base of the

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cylinder with the grounds compressed therein.

AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 08 October 2003 (08.10.03);
original claims 1, 6 amended; remaining claims unchanged (3 pages)]

1. An apparatus for making espresso coffee comprising a support frame (2), a vertically mounted open-topped cylinder (3) mounted on the support frame, the frame and cylinder defining a space below the cylinder adapted to receive a block of compressed ground coffee and below which a cup to receive the coffee may be inserted, means for locating adjacent the base of the cylinder a quantity of ground coffee, a piston adapted to fit in the cylinder, and an actuation means linked to the piston enabling the piston to be moved up and down in the cylinder by the actuation means, wherein associated with the piston is a one-way valve mechanism for enabling water to pass from above to below the head (22) of the piston as the piston is raised within the cylinder by the actuation means.
2. An apparatus for making espresso coffee according to Claim 1 wherein the actuation means are a pair of levers (6, 7) pivoted to the frame and pivotally linked to the piston.
3. An apparatus for making espresso coffee according to Claim 2 wherein the levers (6, 7) are mounted 180° apart relative to the axis of the cylinder (3) and movable from an elevated position in which the piston is located at or near the top of the cylinder to a lowered position in which the piston abuts the base of the cylinder.
4. An apparatus for making espresso coffee according to Claim 2 or 3 wherein the linkage (16, 29, 30) between the piston and the levers (6, 7) is easily and quickly dismountable so that the piston may be removed entirely from the cylinder (3) to enable it to be cleaned.
5. An apparatus for making espresso coffee according to any of Claims 2 to 4 wherein the levers (6, 7) are geared together to promote even pivotal movement thereof.

6. An apparatus for making espresso coffee according to any one of Claims 1 to 5 wherein the one-way valve mechanism for enabling water to pass the head (22) of the piston is an axially movable seal ring (40) located between the exterior periphery of the piston and the internal cylindrical wall of the cylinder (3), the seal ring being held captive between a pair of axially spaced flanges (41, 42) on the piston, the axial spacing between the flanges exceeding the axial dimension of the seal ring, and the arrangement being such that when the seal ring is adjacent the lower flange (41) on the piston, flow channels (47) formed therein are open and wherein those flow channels are closed when the seal ring is adjacent the upper flange (42).

7. An apparatus for making espresso coffee according to Claim 6 wherein the seal ring (40) is a resilient o-ring compressed between the exterior of the piston head (22) and the interior wall of the cylinder.

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8. An apparatus for making espresso coffee according to any of Claims 1 to 7 wherein the cylinder (3) is mounted in the support frame (2) by way of a bayonet-type fitting (14).

9. An apparatus for making espresso coffee according to any of Claims 1 to 8 wherein the support frame (2) is provided with a base (1) containing raised formations (71) on its upper surface such that a cup placed on the base rests on the raised formations and out of contact with the upper surface of the base.

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10. An apparatus for making espresso coffee according Claim 9 wherein the base (1) is provided with an external rim to contain spillage.

11. An apparatus for making espresso coffee according to any of Claims 1 to 10 wherein the means for locating a quantity of ground coffee at the base of the cylinder comprises a standard pot adapted to contain a quantity of coffee grounds, and, on the pot and at the base of the cylinder, interengagable means enabling the pot to be held against the base of the

cylinder with the grounds compressed therein.

STATEMENT UNDER ARTICLE 19 (1)

International Patent Application PCT/GB2003/002400

Claim 1 has been amended to stress that a one-way valve mechanism is associated with the piston which enables water to pass from above to below the head of the piston and thus more clearly to distinguish the subject matter of these claims from the disclosures of the Colla Romano patent identified in the international search report, which discloses a piston that normally forms a seal with the cylinder but which can be arranged not to form a seal so allowing water to pass the piston in either direction. Claim 6 has also been amended in line with Claim 1. The impact of this on the text of the case will lead in due course to the amendment of the statement of invention appearing at page 3 lines 4-14.